

REMARKS

Claims 1, 4 and 5 have been amended, and claim 3 canceled to improve the clarity of the claimed subject matter and to bring the claims into conformity with U.S. practice and format, and to place the application fully in condition for allowance. All of the amendments are fully supported by the original disclosure of this application and therefore do not constitute the introduction of any new matter into this case. The original Abstract has been amended to provide a more concise summary of the disclosure in accordance with U.S. practice format.

Claims 1, 2 and 4-10 remain pending upon entry of the amendments to the claims above.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicant thanks the Examiner for indicating that claims 3-5 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form, including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Accordingly, allowable claim 3 has been canceled, and all of the elements of canceled claim 3 have been incorporated into independent claim 1. Hence, it is respectfully believed that pending claims 1, 2 and 4-10 are now in condition for allowance.

Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1, 2 and 6-10 are rejected under 35 USC 103. As previously indicated,

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independent claim 1 has been amended to incorporate all of the elements of allowable dependent claim 4, and hence pending claims 1, 2 and 4-10 are now believed to be in condition for allowance. Withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

In the event there are any outstanding matters remaining in the present application which can be resolved by a telephone call or facsimile communication to Applicant's Attorney, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone or facsimile at the numbers provided below.

Respectfully submitted,
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